

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NICOSI 02062 061457Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----013612 061502Z /50

P 061341Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6250
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 2062

EXDIS

USEEC FOR EC BRUSSELS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, CY, TU
SUBJECT: REOPENING OF VAROSHA

REFS: (A) ANKARA 5831; (B) NICOSIA 1982

1. IN THE COURSE OF AN AUGUST 4 CONVERSATION ON SEVERAL SUBJECTS (REPORTED SEPTEL), TURKISH AMBASSADOR ONHON DESCRIBED THE HISTORY OF THE OPENING OF THE CONSTANTIA HOTEL WHICH TRIGGERED GOT STATEMENTS ON VAROSHA AND CAUSED SPECULATION THAT THE CITY WAS TO BE RESETTLED.

2. AMBASSADOR ONHON SAID ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO IT WAS DECIDED TO OPEN A HOTEL TRAINING SCHOOL AT THE CONSTANTIA HOTEL AS A TURKISH ASSISTANCE PROJECT FOR THE TFSC. THE PROJECT WAS POORLY CONCEIVED BECAUSE NO COORDINATION WAS MADE WITH THE MILITARY AND THERE SEEMED TO BE NO CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NICOSI 02062 061457Z

SIDERATION OF THE FACT THAT THE AREA WAS UNDER MILITARY CONTROL. DESPITE THIS THE PROJECT WENT AHEAD AND ASSISTANCE FUNDS WERE EXPENDED TO THE TUNE OF SOME MILLIONS OF TURKISH LIRA.

3. IN THE SPRING OF 1977 IT BECAME NECESSARY TO SPEND ADDITIONAL FUNDS ON THE PROJECT AND IT CAME TO AMBASSADOR

ONHON'S ATTENTION FOR THE FIRST TIME. HE MADE A VISIT TO THE HOTEL, REALIZED IT WAS LOCATED IN A STRATEGIC POSITION AND DECIDED THERE SHOULD BE CONSULTATION WITH THE TURKISH MILITARY BEFORE THE PROJECT PROCEEDED FURTHER. AFTER EXPLAINING THE SITUATION TO GENERAL SAGLAM THE LATTER AGREED THAT BECAUSE OF THE AMOUNT OF GOT FUNDS ALREADY INVESTED HE WOULD OPEN THE AREA TO THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS BY MOVING A CHECKPOINT SOUTH TO THE TRAFFIC CIRCLE AT LEDPHOROS ELEFThERIA AND IRAS (WD 87008668). HE WAS RELUCTANT TO DO THIS BECAUSE THE AREA TO BE OPENED DIRECTLY OVERLOOKED THE PORT OF FAMAGUSTA, BUT ON BALANCE CONCURRED WITH AMBASSADOR ONHON.

4. ONHON THEN GAVE HIS APPROVAL TO CONTINUATION OF THE PROJECT AND THE HOTEL SCHOOL WAS OPENED AS REPORTED REF A ON JULY 13. ONHON REPORTED THE OPENING BY CABLE TO ANKARA AND ALSO DESCRIBED THE SMALL PORTION OF LAND IN VAROSHA ITSELF TO BE OPENED TO PERMIT ACCESS TO THE SCHOOL.

5. ON JULY 20 MR. GUNES, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, WAS TO VISIT THE HOTEL SCHOOL AS PART OF A TRIP TO VAROSHA. AT SOME POINT IN THE DAY HE CALLED ECEVIT ON THE TELEPHONE FROM ONHON'S OFFICE. IN THE CALL, ACCORDING TO GUNES, ECEVIT SAID HE HAD JUST MADE A STATEMENT ABOUT THE REOPENING OF VAROSHA, HE THOUGHT IT WAS GOOD FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NICOSI 02062 061457Z

INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIATIONS, BUT MORE SO AS A DOMESTIC PLOLITICAL ACTION. HE ASKED GUNES TO MAKE A SIMILAR STATEMENT. ONHON SAID IT SEEMED CLEAR ECEVIT HAD MISREAD ONHON'S TELEGRAM ABOUT THE OPENING OF THE AREA FOR THE HOTEL SCHOOL AND THOUGHT THE ENTIRE TOWN OF VAROSHA WOULD BE OPENED. IN ANY EVENT, GUNES THEN MADE HIS EVEN MORE INFLAMMATORY STATEMENT AND THE DIE WAS CAST.

6. ACCORDING TO ONHON THERE ARE NO PLANS AT PRESENT TO OPEN ANY MORE OF THE TOWN OF VAROSHA. THE CONSTANTIA AREA DOES INCLUDE ONE LARGE APARTMENT BUILDING WITH 110 FLATS. TURKISH CYPRIOT CIVIL SERVANTS WILL BE ALLOWED TO MOVE IN. THE RENT THEY PAY WILL BE PUT IN AN ESCROW ACCOUNT FOR POSSIBLE COMPENSATION PAYMENTS AT A LATER DATE. THIS IS THE ONLY ACTION THAT COULD BE SEEN EVEN TO RESEMBLE "RESETTLEMENT" OF ANY AREA OF THE TOWN.

7. IN SUM, ONHON SAID, THE WHOLE AFFAIR HAD OCCURRED BECAUSE OF AN APPARENT MISREADING OF HIS TELEGRAM ON THE OPENING OF THE HOTEL SCHOOL. HE HOPED THE ISSUE WOULD DIE A NATURAL DEATH WHEN IT BECAME APPARENT THERE WAS NO REAL CHANGE IN THE SITUATION.

8. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT "TFSC PRESIDENT" DENKTASH
TOLD A VOA REPORTER AUGUST 5 THAT THERE WOULD BE A CEREMONIAL
OPENING OF THE HOTEL SCHOOL ON AUGUST 15, INCLUDING A BALL
FOR DIGNITARIES.

9. DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS DIA.
DILLERY

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TO DIA.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAND SETTLEMENT, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, VAROSHA, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NICOSI02062
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770283-0012
Format: TEL
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770890/aaaacxqz.tel
Line Count: 125
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 624be360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 ANKARA 5831, 77 NICOSIA 1982
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1689449
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REOPENING OF VAROSHA
TAGS: PGOV, CY, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/624be360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009